

Press-Herald

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Our Backwards Forecast

Last Sunday we carried Roger Babson's comprehensive forecast for the coming year; Ed Capps, our Capitol News Service representative in Sacramento, is taking a good look at what the new years holds for us on that front; and others have been busy with their ideas of what to look for in 1968.

To keep the scales balanced, perhaps it would be useful to consider a few things we needn't bother looking for in 1968. As examples, don't hold your breath until:

- Property taxes are decreased.
- Welfare spending is trimmed.
- Reagan and Unruh decide to agree. (Substitute Johnson and Fulbright, Isen and Beasley, Rusk and Kosygin, Lynn and Hull, Chandler and Yorty . . .)
- Vicious crimes are reduced.
- Torrance traffic jams are eased.
- School taxes are cut.
- Campus demonstrations end.
- The Supreme Court rules something "constitutional."
- The ACLU sponsors a rally for police officers.
- A solution is found for smog.
- The U. S. Health Department reports cigarettes are good for you.

The Wonder of Energy

When one of the ancient ancestors of man discovered fire, it must have been an awesome experience. Unfortunately, his reactions are buried in the dust of eons. But, ever since that first fire, the control and utilization of basic energy sources have occupied a great deal of man's time and ingenuity.

The story of energy is the subject of a permanent exhibit that has been opened in the Museum of Science and Industry at Exposition Park in Los Angeles. Next summer's visitors and vacationers from all parts of the nation will find the exhibit a fascinating attraction. The exhibit was prepared and put on display by two major California gas utility companies, Southern California Gas Co. and Southern Counties Gas Co. They are old hands in the business of supplying energy and are eminently qualified to present the story of energy.

Graphic illustrations and scientific demonstrations trace man's progress from stone age to space age through his use and knowledge of energy—from the sun, wind, water, coal, oil and natural gas—energy in all its interchangeable forms. The exhibit contains such things as a "perpetual motion circus" which should be of particular interest to the youngsters, as well as a "total energy" machine which illustrates, by means of a light panel and on-the-spot "live" television, the potentialities of gas-powered electric generation.

Since most of us take energy pretty much for granted as an integral part of our daily lives, we tend to forget the complex mechanisms of nature and man that put it our disposal. This Los Angeles exhibit will not only increase knowledge but may tend to inspire a measure of humility, just as when one of our ancestors first discovered the wonder of fire.

Tripod of Liberty

As business comes more and more under the thumb of boards, commissions and official dictation, it is progressively restricted in its freedom of management. A Nevada editor feels that some of the modern generation of supervisors of "free enterprise" are to blame for not resisting with more determination the encroachments of government controls.

Among the staunchest supporters of free enterprise and the competitive market are some 11,000 country weekly, smaller city daily, and suburban newspapers in the 50 states. Fortunately, the most progressive industries recognize that these newspapers are indispensable champions of the free enterprise economy. Editors are well aware that without private enterprise with the need to advertise its goods and services in order to sell them in a competitive market, there would be no free press. Its source of support would be gone. We would have official publications — the emasculated mouthpiece of the party in power.

Let none of us forget the interdependence of a free press, private enterprise and individual freedom under representative government. They are the central supports which cradle the precious vessel of human liberty for which this nation was created.

Morning Report:

The end of one year and the beginning of another always leaves the optimists feeling very pessimistic. While the pessimists are feeling quite well, thank you.

All during 1967, as in every year since they started printing calendars and recording history, the optimists were sure things were going to get better. The war would end; General de Gaulle would stop talking; solutions would be found for the ghettos; taxes would come down; and winters would get warmer. But when none of these things happened, the optimists naturally are very sad. Losers are always unhappy.

The pessimists, on the other hand, never expected any improvement and are pleased that they have been proved correct—again.

Abe Mellinkoff

End of The Trail



HERB CAEN SAYS:

A Bearded Man's Protest; He Shaves Every Morning

Pocketfull of notes: After all these years, Impresario Milt Weiss has shaved his full beard, explaining to Sam Meblin: "It's a protest in reverse. I will shave every day until all our boys return safely from Vietnam" . . . Niven Busch's old novel, "The Hate Merchants," which was 10 yrs. ahead of its time, has been bought by George C. Scott for a movie, with Niven writing the screenplay . . . As for Novelist Arthur "Hotel" Healey, he and his wife have joined the Golden Gateway set with a pied-a-terre. He reports: "We have installed the essentials — paintings on the walls, books on the shelves — and now we're getting around to the incidentals, such as beds and chairs" . . . Bob Lampee of Tiburon, aboard United's Flight 464 from Denver to Omaha last wk., peeked inside the stewardess' demonstration oxygen mask and found this Scotch-taped notice: "Virginity Causes Cancer" . . . Joan Baez, chatting with Nat Freedland about her Oakland misadventures: "I was trying to disturb the war and I wound up in jail for disturbing the peace — does that make sense?" Does anything? . . . Well, maybe this: Poet Gary Snyder (once part of the Kerouac-Ginsberg-Ferlinghetti scene) and his Japanese bride expect

their first child in April, and, he asks, "How does Suzuki Snyder sound?" Let's see. Like a helluva fast Japanese motorbike.

Caenfetti: Did you know that the Del Monte Fishing Co. on Battery is the only place in the U. S. that processes WHALES? Neither did I till I noticed a young man picketing the place

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

with a sign reading "Save the Whales!" His name is Al Baron, from San Francisco, and he says "They process 160 whales a year here. Whales are the smartest of all mammals, and they should be left alone." Del Monte official: "He's a bum. If he says we process 160 whales a year he knows more than we do. I won't say how many, it's confidential." Whatever the number (everything's a secret these days), the meat is used for dog and cat food, the oil for various other things, and Moby Dick Lives.

Buddy Hackett, the \$25,000-a-week comic, worked two days for free at the new Ricksha Discotheque on Grant, helping Mai Tai Sung put the joint in order for its opening. This is yet another

place "featuring" steak and lobster (together) the most unlikely combination since hot dogs and caviar . . . There's always a buck to be made, and Varatech of Oakland, which mfrs. street signs, has found a new way; the company is turning out replicas of the Haight-Ashbury corner signs, at \$30 a copy . . . The spirit of Scrooge lives on in the good gray heart of Adman Howard Gossage. When he dials 411 and is told "The number is listed in your directory," he whines "Im sorry, my Guide Dog can't read."

And the perils: Topless Dancer Felicia Foche was walking along Broadway yesterday when a gust of wind blew off her false eyelashes ("Oh, I feel so naked!"). . . On the roof of Steinhart Aquarium, the bullfrogs' tanks iced over and a crew chipped airholes just in time; Dr. Earl Herald almost had frozen frog legs for dinner that night . . . Outside Speedy's Grocery on Telegraph Hill, the wind toppled the mailbox into the street, where it lay right-side up. A girl in an Austin-Healey drew alongside, reached down, mailed a letter and roared off with perfect aplomb for which San Franciscans are noted all the way to Modesto.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Birth of 'War and Peace' A Gigantic Undertaking

In a postscript to "War and Peace," Tolstoy said the book was not a novel, less a poem, still less a historical chronicle. It was a new form of expression "designed to suit what the author had to say." Thus he proclaimed his independence from every literary form, and invited his readers to abandon their old habits, too. The epic novel ran as a serial in the Moscow News in 1867. When first published as a book (six volumes), the edition sold out in a few days. Russia was aware that an event of importance had taken place.

"Tolstoy," a biography by Henri Troyat, is a marvelous book. I have been looking forward to it since Janet Flanner, in The New Yorker a couple of years ago, wrote glowingly of the original French edition. It appears here in a translation by Nancy Amphoux, Tolstoyan in its proportions and

narrative drive. I have spent several days with this portrait of an age as well as a full dress analysis of this bizarre man, Count Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy (1828-1910), a tortured genius, saint, and libertine.

There was much more to Tolstoy than "War and Peace," but Troyat's section

Browsing Through the World of Books

dealing with that masterpiece lingers with me. "I write, I cross out," Tolstoy noted. "But the immensity of the task ahead is frightening." He spent the winter of 1963-64 familiarizing himself with the period he wanted to recreate.

"You can't imagine the difficulties of this preparatory work," he wrote. "Studying, thinking over everything that might happen to the future heroes of a very big book, devising

millions of schemes, and selecting the millionth part of them. It is terribly hard work."

His wife, Sonya, edited his activities so he would not be put off writing. Unlike Dostoyevsky (they never met), Tolstoy did not depend on writing for a living. He skipped from one activity to another, blowing hot and cold, as his biographer puts it, from religion to high society, gymnastics, soldiering and art to pedagogy, agriculture and a secret identification with his serfs.

A publisher's secretary finally collected the finished script. After he had gone, the biographer tells us, Tolstoy felt anxious, despoiled: "As long as the pages were in his possession, he could go back and change them again. Now that they were out of his power they had become a piece of merchandise."

SACRAMENTO FORECAST

Lawmakers Face Another Hectic Session in 1968

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—The California Legislature meets again in regular session, beginning Jan. 8, with many hoping but few expecting that the battle scars from the marathon 1967 sessions will be healed.

Under the 1966 constitutional change, this will be the first time the lawmakers have met in a regular, unlimited session during even numbered years, with a special session held concurrently which sometimes ran until near the June primary election.

Even the most optimistic admit that 1968 probably will be just as hectic as the year just completed. There are a number of reasons for this dim forecast:

1. It is an election year and few debates in the legislature will not be tinged with politicking. If Governor Reagan's "non-candidacy" for the presidency continues as it has for the past six months, his actions too may be geared to promoting or protecting a public image nationally.

2. The 80-member state assembly was locked in partisan debates less than a month ago and will not have had the usual cooling off period between sessions.

3. In the senate, there is an even split of 20 Republicans and 20 Democrats, which should make for some lively partisan exchanges.

4. Finances again will be a major problem, with the alternatives of raising taxes or cutting back on spending. Either alternative is bound to draw plenty of fire.

If these reasons for an expected tumultuous legislative session in 1968 seem to be the same as the reasons for the uproar in 1967 that's because little was expected to change between the Dec. 8 adjournment and Jan. 8 reconvening.

Under the constitution, bills may not be heard in committee until 30 days after their introduction. While this rule is waived on a wholesale basis late in the

session, it is observed early in the year. This means again that the first full month of the session will be one of bill introduction and inactivity.

Serious committee hearings will not be getting underway until at least March 1. The work week will amount to about three days for all of this period

A Preview of What May Be Expected on The Sacramento Scene in 1968.

and probably well into the spring. The houses will meet for a brief session late Monday, and recess for the weekend after a brief session on Thursday morning. This leaves only Tuesday and Wednesday as full work days.

The lawmakers are expected to take another Easter week recess and, this year, probably will take 10 days off for the June primary election. Many old-timers feel they can campaign better out of Sacramento than in their home district — what with better opportunities for "on the job" publicity and a greater exposure to the press.

However, there are 34 assemblymen who will be seeking reelection for the first time. And 13 senators who must seek reelection in 1968 will be doing so for the first time. These freshmen may be more anxious than the veterans to get out of Sacramento and spend time at home.

Absenteeism, which was high during the special sessions this year and was high before the election in 1966, was expected to cause the leadership problems again in 1968.

The leadership already has become sensitive to widespread criticism from throughout the state on the legislature's operation in its new, full-time, higher-paid status. The leaders will be putting on pep talks to keep the attendance up, keep the members on the floor during sessions, and generally

attempt to help the image.

In the senate, it appears that the Republican drive to elect a president pro tempore to replace the 11-year veteran, Senator Hugh M. Burns, D-Fresno, has come to naught. Senator Donald L. Grunsky, R-Watsonville, who recently was elected Republican leader in the senate, reportedly has about 17 votes for the powerful pro tem position but that's not enough.

The Republicans, however, are expected to make some demands for better committee representation. Chairmen in the senate are selected on the basis of seniority. The GOP has one of 22 chairmanships but they are of minor committees.

The Republicans also have the majority on eight committees but again these are such committees as labor, legislative representation and military and veterans affairs. So they no doubt, because of the 20-20 split, will ask for majorities on such committees as finance, governmental efficiency, revenue and taxation and transportation.

In the assembly, there could be some committee chairmanship changes. In 1967, there weren't enough members around with experience to fill all the spots with Democrats so Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Inglewood, named 11 Republicans as chairmen, out of 25 committees. However, with few exceptions, these were minor committees.

Unruh now has a number of promising young Democrats with a full session under their belts who have some experience and may be deserving of some consideration for past loyalties. Whether the speaker will decide to replace a Republican or two with such Democrats is a good question.

The foregoing have been safe forecasts of what can happen in 1968. One big question remains: adjournment date? How about two weeks before next Christmas?

AFFAIRS OF STATE

It'll Cost You More to Mail That Letter Today

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

SACRAMENTO — As of today, another raise in postal rates will be in effect. Postal employees will receive more money. All of which probably fits into the picture of national inflation.

But the question is, will the public receive better service for the privilege of paying more money to send and receive its mail?

And the answer is, if past history is any criterion, the service will sink further into the depths of inefficiency, as it has in the past when rates were raised, improvements are inaugurated, and postal salaries increased.

When first class postage went to five cents an ounce, from the two cents it cost to send a letter within the memory of this writer, it was felt that better service would result. Unhappily, now it takes even longer for the delivery than it did previously.

When the postoffice in Sacramento moved to new and larger quarters, at some public expense, it was hoped mail delivery would be continued on at least the same basis. But what happened, the morning mail was delivered much later than under the old schedule.

When the postoffice decided to sort and distribute mail at the state Capitol from the basement of the building instead of from the new postoffice, it was held that the mail would arrive on time. However, recipients get their mail an hour later.

Now that the first class

rate is jumping to six cents an ounce, some people are wondering whether they will get mail at all in any reasonable length of time.

The postal department in Washington, D. C. issues monthly a "Memo to Mailers" which outline the so-called progressive steps it is taking to improve the mail service.

One of these steps is the standardization of mail sizes. It says "a full dialogue has

News and Opinions
On Sacramento Beat

been launched" on this subject.

If this idea is ever adopted, it contemplates an additional two cents postage for mail not meeting the finally adopted standards, applying to first class and air mail. The department says that "today, with mounting mail volume and consequent mail processing problems, the subject of standardization requires serious and prompt attention."

The department wouldn't bar first class and airmail envelopes from the mail if they didn't meet standard sizes. It would merely charge the public more money for them. All of which would mean an extra cost for odd-sized Christmas cards, greeting cards and other items which failed to conform to the edicts put forth by the post-office department.

Standardization, of course, would mean less work for

the postal clerks and delivery men, but whether it would speed up delivery of the mail remains a question. Neither would it assure delivery of the right mail to the right place, and the errors in this respect, judging from the wrong delivered mail to this news service, are growing rather than decreasing as the post-office "improves the service."

It would appear, therefore, that before the department goes into extensive plans for fast delivery, it might open a school in reading for some of its mail distributors, as it's apparent some of them need instruction along this line.

Alan Grey
Says . . .

Governor Ronald Reagan . . . Has experienced hope and fear . . .

As Governor of California . . . After completing one full year . . .

He probably had a little shock . . .

And thought the State was kidding . . .

When all the state officials . . . Didn't jump to do his bidding . . .

He's learned a vital lesson . . . That experience only teaches . . .

That functioning as a governor . . .

Is more than making speeches.